

Remarks

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application and stand rejected. Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, and 23-25 have been amended.

Claim 1 is directed to a switching device and has been amended to require a computer readable medium having specified instructions and a processor for executing those instructions. Support for the amendment can be found in the Specification on page 6, line 5 through page 8, line 16. Claim 2 and 9 depend from Claim 1 and have been amended to maintain consistency with Claim 1.

Claims 10 and 16 are each directed to a computing system that includes a switching device. Claims 10 and 16 have been amended to specify capabilities of the switching device. Support for the amendments can be found in the Specification on page 6, line 5 through page 8, line 16.

Claim 21 is directed to a method for controlling computing devices and has been amended to include a step of maintaining a list of available computing devices. Support for the amendment can be found in the Specification on page 6, line 5 through page 8, line 16. Claim 24 depends from Claim 21 and has been amended to maintain consistency with Claim 21.

Claim 25 is directed to a computer readable medium having instructions that when executed by a stitching device perform specified tasks. Claim 25 has been amended to specify a task of maintaining a list of available computing devices. Support for the amendment can be found in the Specification on page 6, line 5 through page 8, line 16.

Consequently, the amendments do not add new matter.

Drawings

The Examiner objected to Figs. 1 and 2. Proposed amendments to those figures accompany this response. Should the amendments prove acceptable, a new set of formal drawings is also included.

CLAIMS 21-24

Claims 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over USPN 6,664,949 issued to Amro.

Amro discloses a wireless peripheral such as a keyboard that can be used

to interact with one of a selected group of computers. *See Amro, Abstract.* The keyboard includes wireless transmitter (no receiver) and a computer selector (reference 203 in Amro, Fig. 2) for selecting one of the computers to interact with. *See Amro, Abstract.* Computer selector 203 is described as a button that is pressed once the keyboard's transmitter (an infra-red emitter) is aimed at a selected computer. Amro, Col. 2, lines 50-55.

As amended Claim 21 is directed to a method of controlling multiple computing devices and requires the following limitations:

1. maintaining a list of available computing devices;
2. receiving data from a user, the data being associated with a user selection of an available computing device from the list;
3. using the received data to select a computing device;
4. establishing a wireless link between a peripheral device and the selected computing device; and
5. permitting the user to interact with said one computing device via said wireless link.

Nothing in Amro teaches maintaining a list of available computing devices or receiving data from a user that is associated with a user selection of an available computing device from the list and using the received data to select a computing device. Consequently, Claim 21 is felt to distinguish over Amro

Claims 22-24 each depend from Claim 21 and include all of the limitations of that base Claim. For the same reasons Claim 21 is patentable, so are Claims 22-24.

CLAIMS 1-20 AND 25

Claims 1-20 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the applicant's admitted prior art (APA) in view of Amro.

Claim 1 as amended is directed to a switching device requiring the following limitations:

1. a wireless transmitter;
2. a wireless receiver associated with the wireless transmitter;
3. a computer readable medium having instructions for:

- a. maintaining a list of available computing devices;
 - b. receiving a user communication selecting from among the list of available computing devices; and
 - c. utilizing the transmitter and the receiver to establish a wireless link between the peripheral device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices;
4. a processor operable to execute the instructions.

Nothing in the APA or in Amro teaches a computer readable medium having instructions for performing the tasks required by the third limitation above. For at least this reason, Claim 1 is felt to distinguish over the cited references. Claims 2-9 each depend from Claim 1 and include all of the limitations of that base Claim. For the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so are Claims 2-9.

As amended, Claim 10 is directed to a computing system and requires the following limitations:

1. multiple computing devices, each of which being configured for wireless communication;
2. one or more peripheral devices configured to receive and transmit data; and
3. a switching device configured to:
 - a. maintain a list of available computing devices from among the multiple computing devices;
 - b. receive a user communication selecting from among the list of available computing devices; and
 - c. establish a wireless link between the peripheral device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices enabling wireless user interaction.

Nothing in the APA or in Amro teaches a switching device configured as required by the third limitation above. For at least this reason, Claim 10 is felt to distinguish over the cited references. Claims 11-15 each depend from Claim 10 and include all of the limitations of that base Claim. For the same reasons Claim 10 is patentable, so are Claims 11-15.

As amended, Claim 10 is directed to a computing system and requires the following limitations:

1. multiple computing devices, each of which being configured for wireless communication;
2. one or more peripheral devices linkable with the computing devices for data exchange; and
3. a switching device configured to
 - a. wirelessly receive and transmit data;
 - b. maintain a list of available computing devices from among the multiple computing devices;
 - c. receive a user communication selecting from among the list of available computing devices; and
 - d. establish a wireless link between the peripheral device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices enabling user interaction with the computing devices..

Nothing in the APA or in Amro teaches a switching device configured as required by the third limitation above. For at least this reason, Claim 16 is felt to distinguish over the cited references. Claims 17-20 each depend from Claim 16 and include all of the limitations of that base Claim. For the same reasons Claim 16 is patentable, so are Claims 17-20.

As amended Claim 25 is directed to a computer readable medium having instruction that when executed by a switching device perform the following tasks:

1. maintain a list of available computing devices;
2. receive data from a user, the data being associated with a user selection of an available computing device from the list;
3. use the received data to select a computing device;
4. establish a wireless link between a peripheral device and the selected computing device; and
5. permit the user to interact with said one computing device via said

wireless link.

Nothing in the cited references teaches maintaining a list of available computing devices or receiving data from a user that is associated with a user selection of an available computing device from the list and using the received data to select a computing device. Consequently, Claim 25 is felt to distinguish over APA and Amro

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-25 define allowable subject matter. The Examiner is requested to indicate the allowability of all claims in the application and to pass the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Travis J. Parry

By 

Jack H. McKinney
Reg. No. 45,685

May 12, 2004



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

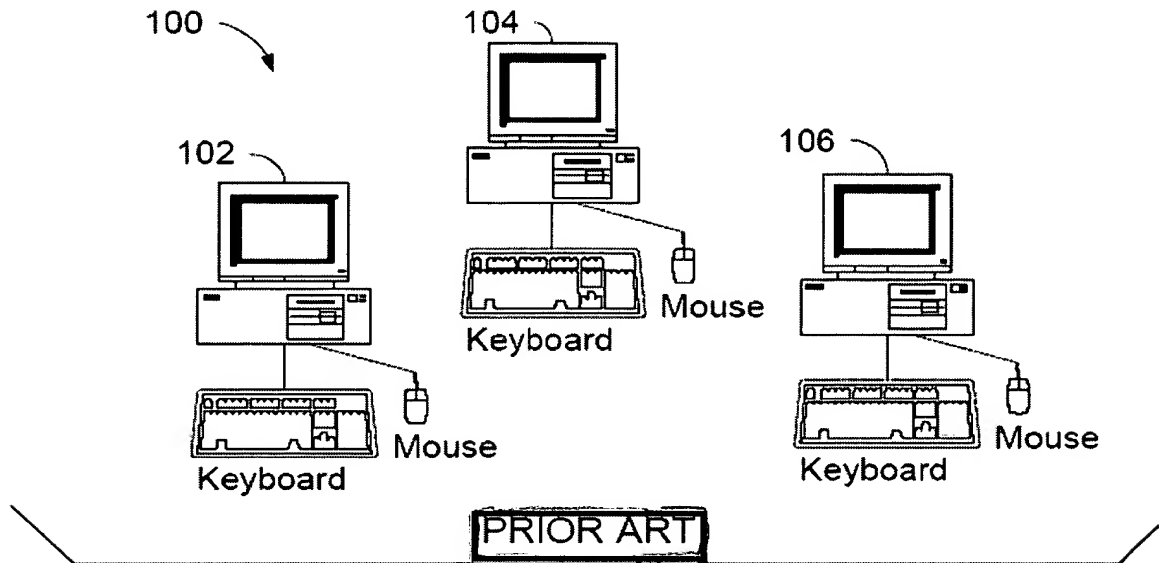


FIG. 1

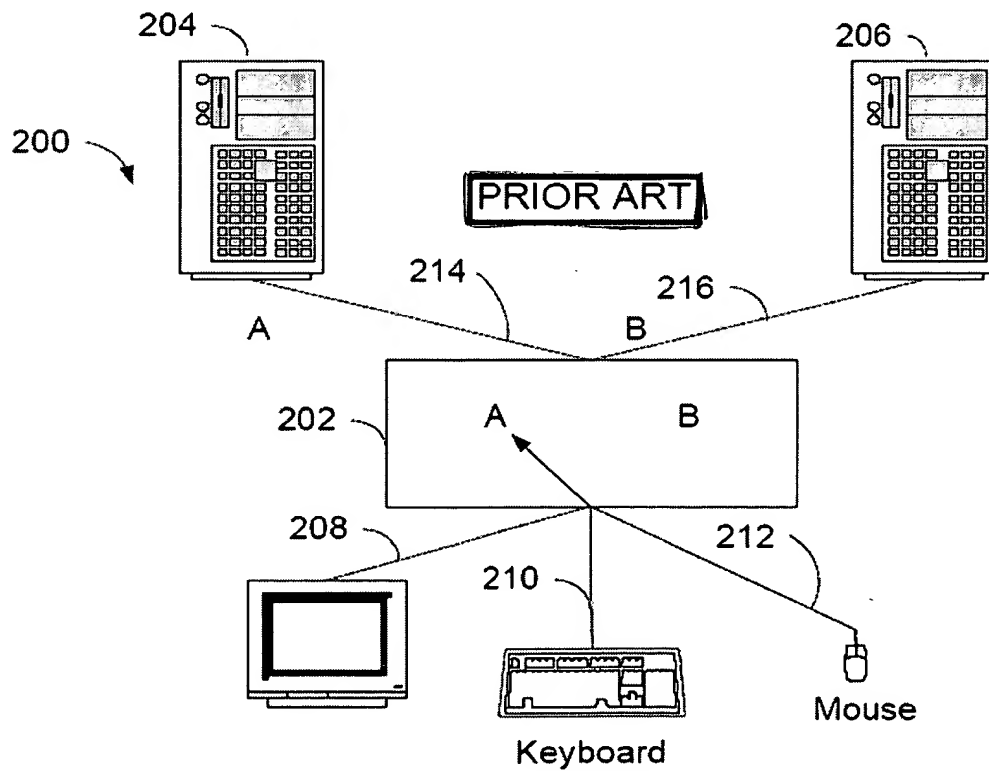


FIG. 2